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INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS.

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DEVIL'S GATE.

Wonderful Phenomena on the
Upper Colorado.

A CAVE LIGHTED BY ELECTRICITY

The Experience of a Party of Tour-
ists in the Cause of Science.

On the 18th day of June, 1883, the steamer Mohave, of the Colorado Steam Navigation Co., shot into the mouth of Devil's Gate Canyon, through which flows the Rio Colorado of the West. As part of the boat's machinery had become damaged, a tie up was made at five o'clock, p. m., and some of the passengers stepped off for an examination of the region. For some distance in either direction, on the Arizona side of the river, was a low shelving bank that ran back for perhaps fifteen or twenty feet, and there merged into an immense perpendicular wall of peculiar gray granite-like stone, that rose to a great height, and seemed to almost touch the brow of a corresponding wall on the Nevada side. From the time that the first steamer braved the rapids and whirlpools of the lower Colorado and ventured into the dark mysterious coñons of the upper, stories have been told of the peculiar influences that would seem to affect a person the moment the walls of the dark Devil's Gate Cañon closed in on him. These tales had been listened to and somewhat doubted by our party, so what we considered the lucky rupture of the machinery gave a wished for opportunity for investigating any phenomena that might be connected with this section.

Our party consisted of a Miss McGregor, Col. Peck, Charles Dudley Hawthorne, the eminent government geologist, and the writer. Miss McGregor, having strayed ahead, suddenly uttered surprised cry. The rest of the party hurried forward to find her peering into what appeared to be an immense shaft, that, after numerous windings, came out at the top of the bluff, some thousand feet above us. Mr. Hawthorne immediately proposed that some one start up the incline for a short distance to a small chamber that was dimly discernable at about twenty feet from the opening. No one seemed inclined to accept the proposal, when Mr. Hawthorne, removing his coat, and obtaining a lantern from the steamer, climbed into the shaft. This was easily done owing to the jagged edges and projecting points of crystallizations on the incline walls. Upon reaching the small chamber Mr. Hawthorne called to us to hasten for more lanterns and to join him. These were shortly procured and one and all climbed to his side, when a sight met our eyes that was absolutely startling in its beauty. The polished, glass-like floor glistened as if sprinkled with diamonds, and from the vaulted roof hung stalactites of great splendor, while branching off in various directions were brightly lighted passages that seemed to lead into the very bowels of the mountains. We had passed perhaps one hundred feet into the center of the chamber when our metal lanterns were wrenched with a giant's power from our hands, and an electric shock of startling intensity was felt by all, after which the place glowed and flickered with a peculiar electric glimmer that rivaled moonlight in brilliancy and certainly sunlight in beauty. Miss McGregor proposed turning back, but Mr. Hawthorne was for a complete exploration of this

ghostly place, and immediately commenced to lay before us a plan of action. Col. Peck returned to the boat for some candles, matches, luncheon, a good supply of twine and several articles that were suggested by the various individuals. Upon his return we proceeded to attach to a projecting rock at the entrance one end of our twine, and gradually unwound it as we moved forward into one of the many passages leading off from the large chamber where we first entered.

Our candles were not needed as the glow that we had first noticed continued to light up our pathway in a most satisfactory manner. Passing under a low azure-tinted archway we emerged into an immense cavern, lighted with electricity, that opened out on either side, the dome-like roof being supported by basaltic pillars of prodigious size. A low rumble seemed to indicate the proximity of some stream, but the roar turned into a series of detonations that terminated in one intense crash—one blinding flash, that hurled us to the floor, stunned and bruised. As our quarters were getting disagreeable we made as hasty an exit as circumstances would admit, and returned to the steamer.

Mr. Hawthorne says he has reason to believe this is part of a distant chamber of the famed Magnetic Cave spoken of by Fremont's party, and he intends to use his influence in behalf of a fully equipped party to examine the place.

Knee Breeches Booming.

"You may say what you please," said a clothier to a reported, as they looked at a company of stout fellows in bicycle uniform, "but knee-breeches are the coming thing."

"That depends on the size of the legs in the future, perhaps." "By no means. It's bounds to come, slim calves or fat ones. I tell you the long-legged trousers business has seen its day. The most troublesome thing about making a pair of trousers is to get a fit at the foot. There isn't one man in ten who has a foot upon which trousers' leg will fall and bend gracefully. The instep is too low or too high, the foot is too low or too high, the foot is too long for the size of the leg or too short; something is the matter in nine cases out of ten."

"Then there's the matter of knees, which has caused more men to commit suicide than women or wine ever did. To have trousers that bag at the knees—is anything more maddening? Yet bag they will."

"Yes, I know that knee-breeches lost in the contest that arose about this subject fifty or sixty years ago. But that makes no difference. That was a time of boots and thin calves. Nobody wears boots now. And our legs have got bigger. Men have to wear garters to keep their socks up—a sort of a male, compromise kind of a garter. Why not be honest and wear a real honest garter?"

"But Oscar Wilde and Miss Kate Field tried to start this boom."

"That's the reason it didn't go. Nobody but duds would do what Wilde did, and the spindle-shanked duds don't want knee-breeches, of course. I should say no! Miss Kate Field—what does she know about it? She couldn't do anything but talk, and men weren't going to show their legs just because she wished to see them. Stout, sensible, muscular fellows must take up the boom, and it'll go. You may count on the tailors. They're tired of this ankle-trousers kind of business." A bicyclist from Boston said that the suggestion was not a

new one to him. The has even been talk at the Hub of forming a club "to encourage the universal enlargement of calves, preparatory to the reintroduction of the fashion of knee-breeches," and it is a bicyclist movement. It was a universal remark among the ladies yesterday that the wheelmen's uniform was "so nice." How much their shapely calves had to do with this verdict, can, of course, be only guessed.

But the ladies know what they are taking about.

The reporter asked a dealer in men's furnishing goods what proportion of his customers wear garters. "Two thirds, I should say. You're right about it. Socks are an awful nuisance. I supply at least twenty men with stockings, and garters who go the entire porcine or none in this business. They wear 'em, like a woman, to prevent the annoyance of socks."

A thin dude was asked his opinion of knee-breeches.

"Aw! but it isn't the thing, yerno."

"Make it the thing."

"It isn't good form on the other side, yerno."

"Hang the other side. Make it good form here."

"Too fellows, aw, just won't do it, yerno."

"Would you do it?"

"Aw?"

"Would you?"

"Why not?"

"Aw—good day, yerno."

Buying Garters.

A young man recently undertook, in a moment of weakness, to purchase a pair of garters. He didn't think it was anything but a simple operation. So he went in the large door, and not knowing exactly what part of the emporium they were kept wandered on until he judged by the interesting lithographs of feminine harness on the showstands, that he was about in the latitude of the mystic circle. Halting at a counter presided over by a young woman with a mischievous eye, he felt his face warm, but kept himself straight and firmly asked for a pair of garters—expecting her to hand them out forthwith. "What kind, please?" she asked insinuatingly. "Oh, something pretty good," he responded with a heated countenance. "But what style do you want?" Then his errand seemed by some mysterious process to have been telegraphed to every girl in the shop, for they were all eying him. One of them had suddenly discovered that the counter needed dusting, and there she was, right where she could hear every word uttered. He asked with an airy carelessness that nearly made him red hot, what styles were generally called for; and the young lady began describing them minutely. There was the circular kind, put over the foot, and the ones with clasps and catches, and the suspender that hooked on the waist belt, and another sort, fastened like a jib halyard to the side of the corset; and then she took down a lithograph showing the way that particular harness was worn. His breath came in hard thumps, and he looked in a dazed way at her, in dumb appeal. But she wouldn't help him; she smiled, and waited. "What kind would you be most likely to lose in the street?" he jerked out. The girl with the duster apparently thought of something funny just then, for she began laughing immoderately. Other girls were converging toward him, all wanting articles from that counter it seemed. Then he remembered that he hadn't much time, and feverishly grasping the near-

est pair of elastics he gave the girl what she asked, watched her roll them up with maddening deliberation, didn't count his change, and with blushing confusion ran the gauntlet of tittering assistants and escaped straight before him all the time. And as the cool breeze fanned his cheek, he determined that the next girl who wanted garters should buy them.

To Mine Owners of Yuma Co.

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